



# NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR'S COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

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## **BREDESEN NAMES VETERAN CORRECTION MANAGER TO CABINET** **GEORGE M. LITTLE NAMED COMMISSIONER OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

**Nashville** - Governor Phil Bredesen today named George M. Little, a veteran correction administrator for the State of Tennessee, as the new Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction.

Little most recently served as Director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections, where he provided oversight of the administrative functions of the division, including the preparation of the division's operating and capital budgets and general oversight of the day-to-day operations of the division.

"George's career in the corrections system spans more than two decades, with a majority of that time spent working in leadership roles for the State of Tennessee," said Bredesen. "I am confident that the wealth of experience he brings to this role, along with his frontline knowledge of our state's correctional system, makes him the ideal next leader of the Tennessee Department of Correction."

"I appreciate the opportunity Governor Bredesen has given me to use my background knowledge and years of experience to lead this valuable state department" Little said. "Governor Bredesen and I share a common vision for the role correction plays in our state, and I look forward to working with him and with the dedicated employees of this department in my new role."

The Department of Correction is responsible for supervising and rehabilitating convicted offenders. The department operates 15 prisons and correctional facilities across the state that house more than 18,000 inmates. The department also operates the Tennessee Correctional Academy in Tullahoma, which serves as the state's primary training and staff development program for correction workers.

Little, a Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-native, has dedicated much of his professional career to correctional administration and management. Prior to working as the Director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections, he served for four years as the Assistant to the Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, and prior to that, spent nine years working as the Regional Director of the Delta Probation Region of the Tennessee Department of Correction. Prior to that, he worked as Assistant Commissioner for the Department under Governor Ned McWherter. His career in Tennessee began under the administration of Governor Lamar Alexander, where he worked as an Assistant to the Governor in the Office of State Planning.

Little, 50, received a B.A. in Economic and Business Administration from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., in 1977, and completed graduate coursework in Economics with a concentration in urban and regional development at the University of Texas at Austin from 1977 to 1979.

The Governor will swear Little in as the new commissioner on October 3, when he will take over the position. Deputy Correction Commissioner Gayle Ray will continue to serve in the role of Acting Commissioner until that time.

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**NOTE TO PRINT PUBLICATIONS:** *A headshot of Commissioner Little has been attached to the email version of this news release. If you received the release by fax, you may receive a digital copy of the photo by calling Andrea Fanta in the Governor's Communications Office at 615.741.3763.*

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**George M. Little**  
*Biographical Highlights*

**Professional History**

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|-------------|--|
| 2003 - 2005 | Director, Shelby County Division of Corrections<br>Memphis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Managed all administrative functions of the department and provided oversight of the operations of the Corrections Division</li><li>▪ Responsible for oversight of departmental operating and capital budgets</li><li>▪ Formulated and approved policies and procedures for day-to-day operation of division</li></ul>  |
| 1999-2002   | Assistant to Executive Director, Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole<br>Nashville <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Administered the Fiscal, Personnel, Training and Planning sections for the agency with more than 41,000 clients, 930 staff and a \$54 million annual budget</li><li>▪ Established a strategic management program for the Board including performance measures and strategic goals</li><li>▪ Conducted research and program evaluation projects to increase cost-effectiveness of agency operations</li></ul> |
| 1991-1999   | Regional Director, Tennessee Department of Correction<br>Memphis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Administered accredited probation region with more than 6,400 clients, more than 3,000 investigative reports per year, 140 staff and a \$3 million annual budget</li><li>▪ Established Day Reporting Program for high-risk, unemployed clients</li><li>▪ Designed and helped implement 30-bed male halfway house</li><li>▪ Implemented new automated correctional management information system (TOMIS)</li></ul>                 |
| 1989-1991   | Warden, DeBerry Correctional Institute, Tennessee Department of Correction<br>Nashville <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Administered 285-bed special needs prison for mentally ill offenders, including supervision of 230 staff and \$18 million annual budget</li></ul>  |
| 1987-1989   | Assistant Commissioner, Adult Institutions, Tennessee Department of Correction<br>Nashville <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Administered 16 institutions and central office operations with 12,000 inmates, including 4,300 staff and a \$220 million budget</li></ul>   |
| 1980-1984   | Assistant to Governor Lamar Alexander, Office of State Planning<br>Nashville   |

**Academic History**

B.A. in Economic and Business Administration  
Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA), 1977

Graduate Study in Economics, Urban/Regional Development  
University of Texas (Austin, TX), 1977-1979